

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 181530Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1763

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, US, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES

REF: STATE 241590

FOLLOWING ARE CONGEN COMMENTS ON NATURE AND EXTENT OF
ANTI-AMERICANISM IN THIS DISTRICT, AS REQUESTED REFTEL:

1. ALTHOUGH SOME INCREASE IN ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT
EXPRESSED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO CONGEN OFFICERS HAS
BEEN NOTED IN PAST MONTH, PRECISE EXTENT AND DEPTH SUCH
FEELING IN NORTHERN GREECE IS, AS REFTEL ANTICIPATES,
DIFFICULT TO JUDGE. SPECIFIC UNFRIENDLY ACTIONS HAVE BEEN
LIMITED TO FEW INSTANCES OF GESTURES OR EPITHETS
DIRECTED TOWARD OFFICIAL CAR WITH FLAG BEARING ACTING
PRINCIPAL OFFICER.

2. PRINCIPAL CHARGE HEARD IN THIS AREA, REMINISCENT OF
1967, IS THAT USG, SPECIFICALLY CIA, ENGINEERED PAPADOPOULOS
OVERTHROW AND INSTALLATION ANDROUTSOPOULOS AS U.S. STOOGES.
STORY CURRENT AND WIDELY BELIEVED AMONG LOCAL ELITE, AND
PRESUMABLY HAS SIFTED DOWN TO MIDDLE AND WORKING CLASSES,
WHERE ITS EXPLOITATION BY ELEMENTS INIMICAL TO U.S. AND NATO
INTERESTS CAN BE PRESUMED, AS OPPORTUNITIES AFFORD.

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3. INITIAL GENERAL EUPHORIA HERE AT PAPADOPOULOS' OVER-

THROW HAS NOW YIELDED TO "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE AT BEST, TO OPEN SKEPTICISM OVER PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF ANDROUTSOPOULOS GOVERNMENT IN COPING WITH GREECE'S CURRENT PROBLEMS, OR TO HOSTILITY TOWARD NEW GOG AS PERPETUATION OF REPRESSIVE MILITARY REGIME. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT NORTHERN GREEK SENTIMENTS TOWARD U.S. WILL BE DETERMINED TO CONSIDERABLE DEGREE BY SOME COMBINATION OF AMOUNT OF CREDENCE GIVEN TO CHARGE OF U.S. SPONSORSHIP OF ANDROUTSOPOULOS ADMINISTRATION, AND LATTER'S SUCCESS IN GRAPPLING EFFECTIVELY WITH COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS. SHOULD THERE BE ECONOMIC DISTRESS IN NORTH, OR HARSH SUPPRESSION OF POPULACE OR STUDENTS BY GOVERNMENT FORCES, AND SHOULD U.S. BE IDENTIFIED IN PUBLIC MIND WITH CURRENT GOG, LIKELIHOOD OF UPSURGE IN ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT HERE APPEARS GOOD.

4. PRESS CRITICISM OF U.S. IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN MUTED, AND CONFINED TO SUCH ARTICLES AS EXTREME RIGHT EDITORIAL-IST'S ATTACK ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE-KEEPING IN VIETNAM AND DETENTE WITH SOVIET UNION AND CHINA AS SELL-OUT TO COMMUNIST WORLD. "LE MONDE" STORY, REPEATED IN "TA NEA", THAT U.S. GENERATED FUEL CRISIS TO BRING WESTERN EUROPE TO HEEL IN RETALIATION FOR ATTACK ON DOLLAR ALSO SAID TO BE GIVEN SOME CREDENCE AMONG THESSALONIKI INTELLECTUALS. HOWEVER, STORIES RELATED TO SIXTH FLEET GIVEN LITTLE PLAY HERE, AND THUS FAR APPEAR TO HAVE PLAYED MINOR ROLE IN STIMULATING ANY ANTI-US SENTIMENT LOCALLY.

5. AMONG GOVERNMENT AND UPPER-LEVEL MILITARY CIRCLES HERE PRO-US FEELING STILL APPARENTLY RUNS HIGH. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING MY DECEMBER 7 CALL, NEW "C" CORPS COMMANDER, LT GEN. IOANNIS DAVOS, DELIVERED LENGTHY, AND EVIDENTLY SINCERELY FELT, DISCOURSE ON HISTORY OF US FRIENDSHIP FOR GREECE, AND GRATITUDE FOR ASSISTANCE IN TIMES OF DIRE NEED, ENDING WITH HOPE THAT U.S. IN ITS PRE-OCCUPATION WITH OTHER PROBLEMS WORLDWIDE WOULD NEVER OVERLOOK SMALL THOUGH STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT GREECE. IN DECEMBER 18 RETURN CALL DAVOS VOICED SIMILAR WARM THOUGHTS ON US-GREEK RELATIONS.

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6. IT WOULD THUS BE CONSIDERABLE OVERSTATEMENT OF PRESENT SITUATION TO REPORT THAT ANY FEVER OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT IS MANIFEST IN NORTHERN GREECE. IN WAKE OF NOVEMBER 25 COUP, STORIES CRITICAL OF U.S. HAVE BEEN HEARD MORE FREQUENTLY HERE THAN IN PAST. BUT IT STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THESE ARE LIKELY TO DWINDLE IN TIME, OR TO INCREASE IN INTENSITY, AND EVENTS TO COME WILL HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING IN THIS REGARD. A BUTTRESS

AGAINST SUCH SENTIMENT IN NORTHERN GREECE IS CONSIDERABLE,
BUT AGAIN DIFFICULT TO MEASURE, RESERVOIR OF GOOD-WILL FOR
U.S.*HERE, BASED BOTH ON BLOOD TIES AND ON RECEDING BUT STILL
VIVID PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE DURING AND
AFTER GREEK CIVIL WAR.
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